

## FREEDOM BLUE CROSS

A conference in Brighton in June brought together representatives of right-wing organisations, multinational companies, journalists and academics specialising in defence, and ex-military personnel. It was an attempt by a small group of long-standing anti-communists to enlist the financial support of industry in their campaign to restore international relations to the conditions prevailing in the mid-fifties.

The main sponsor was the National Strategy Information Center, a think tank of retired intelligence and military personnel, and right-wing academics which is based in Washington DC. British organisations sponsoring the conference included the Institute for the Study of Conflict (ISC) and the Foreign Affairs Research Institute (FARI).

Amongst British industrialists present were senior employees from Taylor Woodrow, Tate and Lyle, Barclays and National Westminster Banks, Vickers, British American Tobacco, and STC (the British subsidiary of ITT). Not all those attending signed the 'Brighton' declaration which the conference adopted. The declaration was a response to the alleged 'destruction of the CIA'. It called for private efforts and money to be made available to enable the West to regain the initiative in particular on 'intelligence, information and counter-information'. The conference put forward proposals for the creation of an international 'Freedom Blue Cross' to finance such activities.

Political and popular pressure has recently limited the anti-communist covert publishing and media operations carried on by state agencies such as the CIA and the British Foreign Office's Information Research Department. These activities are no longer universally accepted as legitimate, though many still support them. The firms attending the Brighton conference were being asked to fill this gap and finance such activities directly.

Concretely, this amounted to a demand that the firms should increase their subsidies to the organisations which sponsored the conference, all of which are heavily involved in the propaganda operations.

Most of the firms represented are well-known 'political' firms, already donating large sums to such bodies as the Economic League, Aims of Industry and the Conservative Party. All are British-based multinationals. The academics and ex-military people came from various western European countries, the United

States, South Africa and Japan.

The potential applicants for business cash include ISC which was founded in 1970 by right-wing journalist Brian Crozier. It had its origins in a CIA front news agency, Forum World Features (FWF) of which Crozier was chairman. FWF folded in 1975, but Crozier was head of both for five years, and is still in charge of ISC, (see State Research Bulletin No 1 for more information).

They also include FARI which was founded in February 1976 by Geoffrey Stewart-Smith. Stewart-Smith, a former officer in the Black Watch Regiment, and Conservative MP for Belper in Derbyshire from 1970 to February 1974, has a long history of involvement with right-wing propaganda groups. He was the founder in 1962 of the Foreign Affairs Circle, a parliamentary pressure group of right-wing commentators and ex-military personnel. It publishes the monthly 'East West Digest', which is distributed free to all MPs. This documents the alleged activities of the Russian world conspiracy, both internationally and in this country through its British front organisations — Communists, Trotsyists, anarchists, and the Labour Left.

Foreign Affairs Circle was the British section of the World Anti Communist League (WACL), largely financed by South African and South Korean interests, until 1974 when Smith and the Foreign Affairs circle broke away. The break was ostensibly over disagreements about unpaid bills from WACL's 1973 London Conference, but it seems that Stewart-Smith found WACL too right wing even for him.

Stewart-Smith is also a director of Foreign Affairs Publishing Company (FAPC) which has published and continues to publish, books on similar themes. Many have introductions by leading Conservatives, including in one case Sir Alec Douglas Home. Its last two publications were an attack on the 'marxisation' of the World Council of Churches by a member of an obscure right wing group, the 'Christian Affirmation Cam-

paign', and the re-issue of a broadsheet on communist infiltration of the Labour Party. Much of the material in this was similar to that used by Ian Sproat, the Conservative MP who has been a business partner of Robert Moss, and predictably the broadsheet was extensively reviewed in 'Free Nation'. FAPC has also distributed material from ISC and similar organisations abroad.

The Foreign Affairs Research Institute represented a coming together of Stewart-Smith's groups with Crozier's. Stewart-Smith became director of FARI.

On the FARI Governing Council are Brian Crozier, and former NAFF Director Robert Moss. FARI's Chairman is Sir Frederic Bennet, the Conservative MP and NAFF Council member, who was also host at last year's Bilderberg Conference in Torquay. Council members include five other Conservative MPs: Julian Amery a former junior minister in Defence and the Foreign Office; Julian Critchley, chairman of the Defence Committee of the Western European Union; Ian Gilmour, former Secretary of State for Defence and his party's present spokesperson on the subject; Philip Goodhart and Tom Mormanton.

Another Council member is Air Vice Marshal Stuart Menaul, the former Director of the Royal United Services Institution, the Ministry of Defence sponsored think tank. He is also a member of the ISC's council.

Perhaps, surprisingly, Lord Chalfont is also a member of the FARI council. While he has moved noticeably to the right, Chalfont has hitherto steered clear of organisational links with such well-known right wing groups as ISC and NAFF.

FARI has published a series of abstracts, mainly book reviews and short articles on one theme: the growing Soviet threat to the west in its internal and external versions. They are expensive at 50p each for five to ten duplicated pages. The authors have included council members, Stewart-Smith and his Deputy Director, Ian Grieg, and Patrick Wall MP.

# STATE RESEARCH

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THE ECONOMIC LEAGUE – ANTI TERRORISM LAWS – POLICE  
AND THE NATIONAL FRONT – WHITE PAPER ON OFFICIAL  
SECRETS – FREEDOM BLUE CROSS

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## THE WHITE PAPER ON OFFICIAL SECRETS

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The Government's White Paper on reform of the Official Secrets Act, published on 19 July, contains few surprises. It reflects, in greater detail, the statement made to the House of Commons by Home Secretary Rees on 22 November 1976. The Government's general approach is to adopt the proposals of the 1972 Franks Committee, with minor alterations which, on balance are less liberal than Frank's ideas. These were analysed in some detail in the background paper 'Secrecy and Security' in *State Research Bulletin No 3* (December 1977–January 1978).

The White Paper is only concerned

with the replacement of Section 2 of the 1911 Act by an Official Information Act, whose most significant change would be the removal of criminal penalties from the mere receipt of official information, Section 1 – which Mr Rees continues, in the face of the evidence of the Aubrey, Berry and Campbell prosecutions, to call 'the spy clause' (*Hansard*, 19/7/78) – is left untouched. And there are no immediate or foreseeable proposals for a freedom of information Bill along the lines proposed in the 1974 Labour Election Manifesto.

Furthermore, it is important to appreciate that the White Paper is primarily concerned with the application of the criminal law to the receipt and transmission of government information. It therefore leaves untouched the armoury of administrative sanctions against disclosure. Information will not be more readily available as a result of enactment of the White Paper's

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#### The Review of Security and the State

Vol. 1, will be published in the autumn by Julian Friedmann Publishers. This will contain our year's work in hardback form, i.e. issues 1-7 of State Research Bulletin (October 1977-September 1978), an introductory overview of the year and an index. Hardback (jacketed) £10.00. Orders direct to: Julian Friedmann Publishers 4 Perrins Lane, Hampstead, London NW3.

#### Back issues

Issues no 1-4 were produced in a duplicated format, but they are in short supply and are currently only available to subscribers. These and Issues No 5 and 6 cost 45p each (inc p & p).

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